

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. In this Amendment, Applicants have made minor changes to the specification to correct typographical errors and to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed Foreign Application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

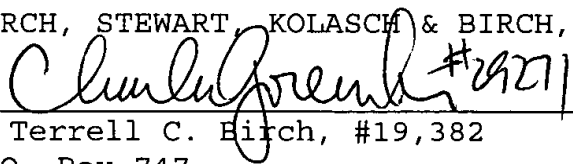
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


 #19271

Terrell C. Birch, #19,382

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000


TCB/CMV/jdm
1248-0676P